

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Twice Amended) A method for separating and collecting nucleic acids, which comprises:

~~bringing-contacting~~ a sample nucleic acid solution ~~into-contact~~ with a nucleic acid-immobilized substrate comprising a substrate and single-stranded nucleic acids having different nucleotide sequences, said single-stranded nucleic acids being each separately immobilized on the substrate, whereby immobilized portions of the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids are provided on the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate;~~to allow hybridization of~~

hybridizing the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids and single-stranded nucleic acids contained in the sample nucleic acid solution and complementary to the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids to form hybridized nucleic acids; and ~~contained in the sample nucleic acid solution, and~~

~~separating the hybridized single stranded nucleic acids on the immobilized portions of the immobilized nucleic acids from the substrate, thereby~~

collecting the hybridized ~~single stranded nucleic acids without disassembling the nucleic acid immobilized substrate,~~

~~wherein the hybridized single stranded nucleic acids are separated by a means~~ selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) rubbing off the immobilized portions; and
- (2) shaving off the immobilized portions; ~~and~~
- (3) ~~applying an electric potential difference across the immobilized~~ portions.